

FARMERS MUST LEND HELPING HAND TO HEROES

Premier Norris and Prof. Black Address Grain Growers on Reconstruction Problems

Suitable Land Sufficiently Near Railways Must Be Secured for Returned Soldiers

Premier Urges East and West to Confer With Each Other and Not Quarrel Over Differences

Brandon, Man., Jan. 3—(Free Press Special).—“These men have written the name of Canada high upon the map of the world, and it is our task to keep it there. This we can do to their and our mutual benefit,” said Prof. W. J. Black, amid a hurricane of applause at a densely packed joint meeting of Manitoba Grain Growers, livestock men and citizens generally here tonight. He had just finished a brilliant address on what the farmers could do to help returned soldiers back to civil life through the Dominion Soldiers' Land Settlement scheme and how, by so doing, the farmers would be taking advantage of a glorious opportunity of learning the real meaning of brotherhood in the truest sense of the word.

Premier Norris declared that Manitoba could take care of all her returned men with no trouble save a little extra trouble in Winnipeg. The rural districts could all take care of their men. He agreed most heartily with Prof. Black and assured the latter that Manitoba would not be found wanting in this as in other patriotic duties.

Vice-President J. L. Brown, in the chair, urged that the great duty of all producers today was to unite for action in the coming period of reconstruction. That was why speakers on this subject had been chosen for this gathering.

Impossible to Reward Men.

W. J. Black began by telling how the board was organized in February of last year with the object of providing an opportunity for returned men to take a share in the great development of Canada. “The scheme was not a reward to the men; it would be impossible to adequately recompense them. There were three classes of men. First came the experienced men and they would need little help. Then there were the men with a little farming experience and they should be helped to get their own farms. The men who needed most attention were the disabled, with no farm experience and who must have outdoor occupations. All these classes would be helped by financial aid, training and a special system of follow-up work. Every man would go before a qualification committee, composed of those best fitted to help him.

Great Chance for Farmers.

The board did not intend to create any new institutions. The authorities hoped to see many men placed with those present at this convention. He pleaded for the delegates to take returned men, not alone from a labor standpoint, but with a real and practical sense of helping those who had richly deserved such help. He regarded it as the greatest chance the farmers ever had to play the part of large Canadians. The great problem was to help returned men to be men and without the co-operation of the farmers such an effort by anyone else was entirely useless.

The period of farm training would last 12 weeks and then the pupils would be sent to the farmers. He was indeed glad to say that institutions and provincial governments from one end of Canada to the other were enthusiastic in giving help to such a worthy cause. These courses would start at the Manitoba agricultural college very soon.

Would Get Suitable Lands

Touching on the land, Prof. Black said it would be criminal to send the men to outlying districts. Legislation was being prepared and would be passed to get land for the men near to railways.

“Those who have idle land near railways and do not want to sell it for such purposes will be dealt with by special measures,” said Prof. Black amid applause. He further intimated that other suitable land was to be taken over under suitable conditions. Land worth \$5,000 would be given on two loans to men with \$300. The money would be repayable in 25 annual payments at 5 per cent. The sum of \$1,500 would be available for implements at 5 per cent interest, no interest to be charged in the first two years. If a man made progress he could get another \$1,000 bringing the loan to \$2,500.

Loan boards had been chosen to prevent the men being sent into arid districts. The board would also act as middlemen to get equipment, which would be standardized. There would be no expensive houses. Supplies would be taken into districts by the train load. New land would be broken under contract by neighboring farmers and here again the grain growers could help.

The authorities earnestly hoped that the men's efforts would ultimately lead to more mixed farming which, he predicted, was destined to become much more profitable than straight grain growing. Another thing was to get the men looked after when they had got on their feet. One of the faults of bygone immigration days was the leaving alone of successful settlers.

Part M.A.C. Must Play

Principal J. B. Reynolds, of the Manitoba Agricultural college, spoke on the part which the college must play in reconstruction. One of the beneficent results of the war, would be to bring about a proper solution of the so-called alien problem. The only way was to Canadianize them. They had in them gifts for citizenship and were intense nationalists if only, by right guidance, their affections could be transferred from the fatherland to Canada and Canadian institutions.

The college, in common with all other similar institutions had a great opportunity there. Prof. Reynolds

ouched on the work done last year, including the course for preachers, many of whom were coming back again. He also told of experiments, including one that spores of rust had been found on wild barley as late as the end of December.

F. W. Hobson gave a brief address in the thrift stamp campaign.

Manitoba Will Look After Men

Premier Norris was given a splendid reception when he rose to speak on Manitoba's natural and agricultural resources.

Manitoba, he said could absorb her returned men at once and he was working night and day to get them back as quickly as possible. This province could take care of its returning problems with as little difficulty as any province. Brandon could handle all her men and Winnipeg could have very few not taken care of if they were all back now. He was glad the returned soldiers commission had been retained in Manitoba. It was just as necessary now for the people generally to be sympathetic to the returned men as when they were coming back wounded. He urged farmers in each neighborhood to see to it that no returned men from their district suffered.

"If it is localized and each one accepts his or her share of the responsibility the whole problem will be solved" declared the Premier. He touched on the rich timber, pulp and mining resources in the province as well as the water power and mineral wealth. The Premier declared that the province had control of its resources he would not hesitate one

minute to advocate capital expenditure to develop them.

Only Want Obstacles Removed.

The speaker raised a storm of applause when he said the farmers had never asked for any special privileges and never would. All they wanted was the removal of the obstacles. In other words the politicians. Union Government, he said, had been busy winning the war and some said they had not done that well, but now the great and most serious problem was at hand in the shape of reconstruction. Payment of war cost must come from the land, through the farmer, and let the shackles be taken off those willing to develop the land. Winnipeg could and ultimately would become the greatest city on the continent.

Canada, owing to its geographical state, was a hard country to govern and if success was to be obtained there must be compromise between east and west. Farmers would be willing to pay a low tariff, a drop from 42 to 12½ per-cent. Unless the government attended to this the farm to the city movement would quickly set in again.

Confer With, Not Fight With.

Wheat would be one of the first things to go down in price and trouble would come unless the government saw that the machinery prices and freight rates came down and at once. "The C.P.M. made a surplus of \$30,000,000 on the old rate and I for one can't see why the rate was ever put up" he said. Where the Dominion government could be effective was to see these prices were brought down. He did not think the price of wheat should remain fixed because the sooner they got back to normal times the better for all concerned. He advocated the west to confer with the east not to fight with them and then go to the government with a mutual proposition.

"We should do this before the farmers are driven off the land" he urged. He strongly counselled the farmers not to be arbitrary, but to remember that the east had the larger population and a different viewpoint from the west. They were still Canadians, however.

Premier Norris predicted that the

price of meat would not go down for some time. Only a large increase in mixed farming could accomplish this.